

## ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly meeting, Weds Nov 18, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Present: Eliza Burden (Co-chair), Mary Ellen Aronow (Co-Chair), John Ellis, Eric Ammondson, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly (partial), Rebecca Edmondson, Eric Ammondson

Visitors: John Ellis

### **1. Approval of meeting minutes Oct. meeting minutes approved.**

### **2. DPW Tree Department update**

**Tree warden:** Position is still unfilled. Steven Rae continues to serve as Interim Tree Warden.

**Fall tree planting/watering:** In process, will plant 50 trees. Mike Rademacher to give ATC a spreadsheet with planting locations. The new watering instructions tag has been attached to gator bags.

**Planting of trees in islands in Arl. center:** There is room for trees in medians on some streets such as Mass. Ave. DPW will report back re: feasibility of this.

Committee questioned DPW about what town charges to remove street trees: Removal of healthy tree must be approved in a tree hearing. Fees and penalties are under review.

Committee questioned DPW about what town is doing about natural gas leaks that are killing trees: A particular problem for Mass Ave. DPW is aware. As construction is performed on streets, will work to get leaky gas mains replaced.

Committee questioned DPW about what to do when they think a tree has been taken down illegally: Contact DPW.

### **3. Tree removal on private property (Susan S.), update**

Work on proposal continues.

### **4. Publicity/Outreach**

**Google Group:** Becky E. set up the group. John E. will be the acting administrator, when he becomes full member. Will use the group to send emails to supporters regarding volunteering opportunities, website updates, and issues related to town trees. Becky E and MEA to work on inputting names. John E. will be the acting administrator. All posting must go through him.

**Advocate article(s) update committee on schedule:** John Ellis wrote a short notice and sent it to the Advocate. The topic is how to request a new tree from the DPW.

## **5. Committee membership and list on town website:**

Updated and sent to Fran Reidy. John Ellis's application to join the committee was approved by Committee members. His application will be sent by MEA to Dan Dunn, ATC's BoS liason. If approved by Dan Dunn, a date will be scheduled for him to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. The town website for the ATC has an outdated list of members. An updated list was sent to Fran Reidy. Becky will follow up to make sure the site is corrected.

## **6. New Business**

**Editing town's online tree request form to include info on tree care:** John Ellis and DPW working on adding language that will remind people to care for (water) trees that they request.

**Heritage Trees update:** No work has been done on this project for a couple of months, but we will keep it alive as there seems to be interest in the town.

### **Correspondence:**

Report of a tree at Henderson/Sawin intersection that is dropping limbs: Mike R. notified and will deal with it.

A resident approached ATC re: managing trees on bike path: MBTA owns bike path and adjacent lands. Town only deals with tree hazards. MaryEllen to follow up with correspondent about this issue

**Next meeting:** Next scheduled meeting is December 9 at 7:30 pm, Auditorium, ATH.